

The basis of this petition is that there is already adequate competition from other internet services (wireless cable etc) but what it fails to realize is that in many areas customers have only one choice for broadband services.

I had service from BellSouth many years ago and had my account suspended for "abuse," their reasoning was that because I was running an email server with my DSL line, I must be a business, even though I explained multiple times that it was only for personal use. They then wanted me to pay more than double the normal home DSL rates to continue my service with them. Cable and wireless are not options I have available to me in my area, so I chose to go with another DSL company (DSLi) to provide my ADSL services at the same price I was originally paying BellSouth, while allowing me to run my personal server.

I honestly believe that allowing BellSouth and other large telephone companies the power to not have oversight will mean the end of 3rd party ISP's and be disastrous for consumers and prevent the further development of data services.

How is it that in other countries all over the world data services are so much more advanced than here in the United States? Simple, large companies are run by investors, they do not care what the consumers want or demand, they only care about their bottom line. I am not suggesting a communist state, with state run broadband or anything silly like that, I want there to be fair competition (which it isn't even that fair at the moment). With competition comes innovation, lowering in prices and overall good things for the consumer.

Instead of helping the phone companies acquire a monopoly you should be helping consumers get what they deserve, a fair playing field for broadband companies so that consumers can have a choice.

If Bellsouth was truly such a great ISP then there would be no need for 3<sup>rd</sup> party ISPs. But there are many small ISP's offering consumers choices, and to get services that Bellsouth cannot or will not provide.

Thank you for your consideration  
-Frank Echanique